

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4452

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, IS, SY
SUBJECT: SYRIAN ACCUSATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL -- SEPARATION OF
FORCES AGREEMENT

1. I MET THIS MORNING WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE WEIZMAN TO DISCUSS SOUTHERN LEBANON AND OTHER SUBJECTS (SEPTELS). DURING THIS DISCUSSION, WEIZMAN BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF SYRIAN ACCUSATION ON APRIL 1 IN WHICH IT IS CLAIMED THAT AN IDF UNIT CROSSED THE DISENGAGEMENT LINE IN THE SOUTHERN GOLAN AND MINED THE ROAD LEADING SOUTH FROM DAMASCUS TO DERA. WEIZMAN, OBVIOUSLY DISTURBED AT THIS REPORT, INSISTED THAT NO SUCH THING HAD TAKEN PLACE, AND THAT CERTAINLY ONE THING THAT NO ONE WANTED AT THIS TIME WAS ANY FLARE UP ON THE GOLAN WHATSOEVER. HE ASKED THAT WE PLEASE TELL THE SYRIANS THIS AND THAT HE HOPES THAT THERE WILL BE "NO REPRISALS ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS."

2. ON A MORE GENERAL BASIS, WEIZMAN ASKED "HOW ARE THE
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SYRIANS DOING?," OBVIOUSLY REFERRING TO THE SOUTHERN LEBANON SITUATION. I RESPONDED THAT IT WAS OUR BELIEF THAT THEY WERE BEING "SYRIAN-ESQUE." GENERALLY THEY WERE TRYING NOT TO BE ACCUSED BY THE IRAQIS OR OTHERS OF SQUEEZING THE PALESTINAINS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH SOME FURTHER CONTROL OVER PALESTINIAN ACTIVITY IN LEBANON. I SAID THAT I BELIEVED

IT WAS A CASE OF SAYING ONE THING WHILE DOING ANOTHER
AND THAT SYRIAN BEHAVIOR WAS REASONABLY SATISFACTORY.
WEIZMAN IMMEDIATELY SAID HE AGREED AND THAT HE AGAIN HOPED
THAT THE SYRIANS WOULD ACCEPT HIS OFFICIAL DENIAL OF ANY
IDF MINING ACTIVITY INSIDE SYRIA.

3. COMMENT: WEIZMAN EXPRESSED SOME CONSIDERABLE SURPRISE
OVER THE SYRIAN ANNOUNCEMENT. I AM CONVINCED HIS PRO-
TESTATION THAT ISRAEL WANTS NO PROBLEM ON THE GOLAN
AT THIS POINT IN TIME IS GENUINE. I ASKED HIM WHAT HE
THOUGHT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED AS CONCERNS THE MINE INCIDENT
AND HE REALLY COULD NOT COME UP WITH ANY ANSWER. HE
ALSO EXPRESSED SOME SATISFACTION THAT THE SYRIANS ARE
INDEED ATTEMPTING TO CURTAIL IRAQI SUPPORT OF PALESTINAINS
AND SAID IT HAS BEEN SOME DAYS SINCE ISRAEL HAS
NOTICED ANY CONVOYS MOVING FROM IRAQ TO LEBANON. IT IS
APPARENT HE IS WATCHING THE SYRIANS VERY CLOSELY
AND AT THIS POINT GENERALLY ACCEPTS THAT THEY ARE MAKING
QUIET ATTEMPTS TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE.
LEWIS

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